

Japanese. Suddenly, a baby started crying within the cave and the entrance was discovered. The Marines yelled into the cave, and Elias immediately came out with his hands up and said in English, I surrender. If he had not responded as he did, the Marines were ready to toss grenades into the cave rather than risk Japanese soldiers were hiding there.

Because he spoke English, the Marines asked if he was Elias Sablan. They had been on the look-out for him because they were told Elias was one of only two Chamorros who knew English and could help translate for the U.S. military forces. Everyone in the cave was escorted down the hill to the camp where other survivors had been gathered and were being fed, clothed, and treated for injuries.

When the battles in the Marianas had ended, the American Military Government wanted to put the islanders on the road to independence and self-government. In December 1944, they held the first election for a Head Chief, the forerunner of today's Mayor. Barely five months into office, however, that first elected official passed away.

The military then appointed Elias to be interim Head Chief, until a new election could be held. Elias was working as the leader of the police force and continued in that position until being elected in his own right at head chief/mayor on July 4, 1945. Women voted in that July election, although they had not been able to vote the previous December.

Elias was an excellent representative of his constituents. He embodied Saipan's history and culture, because by blood he was both Chamorro and Carolinian, the two local communities of the island. He spoke those two languages, as well as the languages of all the foreign powers that had ruled and were now ruling Saipan: Spanish, German, Japanese, and English. Bringing this background and linguistic ability to his work as Mayor, Elias could understand and be understood by everyone on Saipan.

In coordination with the U.S. military the new Mayor went about the business of bringing life on the island back to normalcy. He appointed a building supervisor, a sanitation commissioner, an Educational Officer, and a replacement Police Chief. The infrastructure for the new island government was now started.

Every person living in the camps set up after the battle of Saipan was identified and accounted for. Repairs were made to the classrooms of the Chalan Kanoa school, so children could have a place to study. And working with the U.S. military, Elias helped interested families return to work farming.

In 1947, the United Nations created the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The United States was charged with governing the TTPI and with helping its people transition from being colonies to being sovereign nations. As Mayor, Elias worked with the TTPI administration. He even traveled to New York City in 1955, along with delegates from the other Micronesian islands in the Trust Territory to report on the status of that transition.

Elias wanted to model self-government in the islands after American democracy, which he had read about in the textbooks his father gave him. There had been no political parties, when he was first elected, and no specific candidates. Each voter simply wrote in the name of his or her choice on a printed ballot. So, to foster competitive elections after the

American practice, Elias, together with other community leaders, started the islands' first political party: the Territorial Party.

Elias served for three consecutive terms (twelve years) as the Mayor of Saipan, from 1945 through 1956. Even after stepping down as Mayor, though, he continued serving the people in various other government and civic positions until his death on October 29, 1968.

Sadly, his passing came too soon for him to witness the realization of his vision of a happy and prosperous life for his people as members of the American political family. Saipan and the other Northern Mariana Islands became a Commonwealth of the United States in 1978.

HONORING JJ GERTLER FOR HIS PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the achievements of Jeremiah "JJ" Gertler, Specialist in Military Aviation, Congressional Research Service, on the occasion of his retirement from the Service on February 28, 2022.

JJ Gertler served Congress with distinction for more than 22 years at the Library of Congress as a Specialist in Military Aviation for the Congressional Research Service, as a professional staff member of the House Armed Services Committee, and as a Defense Legislative Assistant for then-Senator Chuck Robb of Virginia. He earned a bachelor's degree from Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts, a master's degree in international security policy from the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., as well as graduating with distinction from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

JJ is recognized throughout Congress, the military Services, the defense community, and the military aviation community as an expert in U.S. military aviation programs, capabilities, and strategy. He authored numerous reports and products pertaining to important military aircraft programs across the military services, ranging from the F-35 fighter to the Marine Corps Osprey to privatized adversary air combat training. He also is an expert in the strategic use of military aviation, writing extensively on no-fly zones, possible air strikes in numerous conflicts, and on the strategic implications of the Air Force's long-term budget priorities. He excelled at consultative work for Members of Congress and staffers, developing and maintaining long-term relationships with offices and committees of jurisdiction.

JJ also exercised true leadership at CRS. He was chosen, based on his outstanding skills as an analyst and public speaker, to moderate numerous high-profile panels organized by the Service, most notably the plenary session for the 2019 New Members' Seminar in Williamsburg, Virginia. His skills at presentation are well noted by both members and peers, and a House Armed Services subcommittee chairman once told him, "I have been here 10 years, and I have never heard a better presentation." He created the first podcast for CRS aimed at Congressional clients, served a year in a rotation as a Senior

Advisor to the Director of CRS, and piloted multiple new written CRS products during his tenure.

During his tenure as a professional staff member on the House Armed Services Committee from 2000 through 2004, Mr. Gertler oversaw the defense procurement and missile defense budgets, including all classified programs, during the Fiscal Year 2000 through 2005 budgets. Prior to serving on the committee, he was a defense legislative assistant from 1990 to 1995 for Senator Robb who was simultaneously serving on the Armed Services, Foreign Relations, and Intelligence committees.

JJ Gertler, in addition to his tremendous work and professionalism, is notable for his love of automobiles and his sense of humor. While working on Senator Robb's staff, JJ's sports car team finished third in the country. He plans to retire to the Maryland shore and continue those pursuits. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and all those who JJ has worked with during his 22 years on Capitol Hill, we thank him for his public service and wish him well.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF FRANCIS VINCENT

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD this article in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Francis Vincent.

[From the Delaware Genealogical Society, May 2021]

FRANCIS VINCENT: EDITOR, PUBLIC SERVANT
(By Mary Anne Vincent)

March 17, 2022 will be the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of Delaware's most illustrious citizens, Francis Vincent.

Francis Vincent was only 23 when he co-founded the Blue Hen's Chicken, a newspaper which would greatly influence events in Delaware and Maryland within the next few years. Local papers in his day borrowed heavily from large city paper but they printed little news about either Wilmington or Delaware. Vincent, who knew the state from end to end, devoted most of his paper to state and local news. Within three months his paper had the largest circulation in the state.

Vincent used the Blue Hen's Chicken to advocate for major changes in his home state. He called for proportional representation in the state legislature, ratification of more important laws by popular ballot, and election of state officers instead of their appointment by the governor.

Politicians, especially Whigs who controlled the state government, were sharply opposed to such changes. Vincent persistently called for a state convention to change the state constitution. Other newspapers followed his lead by addressing the same issue. In 1846, the Whigs were turned out of office.

In 1848, Vincent published an article on the "Moral Effects of Hanging". Shortly thereafter, the state legislature abolished public hangings. He also called for abolishing public whipping of women. Known to his contemporaries as a courteous, gentle man, this treatment of women was abhorrent to him.

Vincent showed his concern for other segments of society by calling for a 10-hour